

MICHIGAN—CONVENTION OF DELEGATES—MONROE COUNTY—SOUTH-
ERN BOUNDARY.

MAY 28, 1836.

To lie one day upon the table.

JUNE 6, 1836.

Ordered to lie on the table.

MONROE, April 14, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of the proceedings of a convention of delegates duly elected in the county of Monroe, and am,

With high respect, sir,

Your obedient servant,

LAURENT DUROCHER.

The Hon. the SPEAKER

of the House of Representatives, U. S.

At a meeting of delegates from several of the townships of the county of Monroe, convened at the court-house in the village of Monroe, on the 11th of April, 1836, for the purpose of taking into consideration the provisions of a bill now pending in the Congress of the United States, proposing to dismember Michigan of a valuable portion of its territory, as the price of a recognition of the right of admission into the Union, honorable Robert Clark was chosen president, and Laurent Durocher, Esquire, appointed secretary.

The following preamble and resolutions, reported by a committee appointed for that purpose, were adopted without a dissenting voice.

Whereas, it appears, from the proceedings of the present Congress touching the application of Michigan for admission into the Union, that whilst both Houses, by large majorities, have refused to receive a memorial from her Legislature, upon the ground that it had no legitimate existence, and at the same time denied her Senators and Representative seats upon the floor of Congress, upon the alleged ground that they were elected without authority. And whilst an attempt is making in both Houses, not only to curtail our just limits on the south, but by way of bonus to add a district of country on the north without our natural boundaries, and otherwise to change materially the fundamental articles of the constitution which Michigan framed for herself. It is no less surprising than true, that a proposition is made by the bill recently reported in the Senate, and which virtually denies the legitimate existence of the Legislature of Michigan, or the authority of her Representatives in Congress, to admit her as a State, upon condition that that same Legislature shall assent to certain alterations and infractions of the constitution proposed by the bill.

Be it therefore,

Resolved, That whilst, as citizens of Michigan, we may not have the power to resist successfully a dismemberment of our rightful territory by Congress, we deny the power of any tribunal on earth to compel us to accept jurisdiction over any portion of territory which we may not be willing to receive.

Resolved, That we rely on the ordinance of 1787, and the constitution of the United States, for the preservation of the integrity of our territorial boundary. That the said ordinance is a compact or engagement entered into which, in the opinion of this convention, the Congress of the United States are bound by (see the first section of the 6th article of the constitution aforesaid).

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this convention, the Supreme Court of the United States, is the only tribunal which can definitely settle our southern boundary, and that all acts done by any other tribunal tending to dismember our just inheritance, are oppressive, unconstitutional, and dangerous to the permanency of our republican institutions.

Resolved, That any proposition to admit Michigan into the Union upon a constitution framed by Congress, and in every part of which her citizens have not had a voice, can be regarded in no other light than a political manœuvre, wholly at war with the spirit, constitution, and the genius of the Government under which we live.

Resolved, As the sense of this convention, that, as no authority has been given by the people to our Senators or Representatives elected to Congress, to assent to any alteration or modification of the fundamental articles of the constitution under which they were elected, any thing like acquiescence, *directly or indirectly*, on their part, in any proposition by Congress to that effect, will be deemed an abandonment of the wishes and views of their constituents.

Resolved, That, in view of such a proposition as is contained in a bill before Congress for our conditional admission, no power is vested in our local Legislature by the people, to either make or unmake constitutions, or to assent to any modifications which may be proposed.

Resolved, That a proposition on the part of Congress to the citizens of Michigan, as a condition upon which she is to be admitted into the Union, that she receive as a bonus, for a forcible dismemberment of her southern territory, a portion of uninhabited and uninhabitable morass at the north, can be regarded in no other light than an insult to the common sense of our citizens, and a deliberate design to add insult to injury.

Resolved, That we respond to the sentiments of our fellow citizens upon this subject, expressed in the resolutions of a meeting recently held at Detroit.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this convention be signed by the officers thereof, and that copies of the same be forwarded to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, our Senators and Representatives elect to Congress, and the presiding officer of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of Michigan; and that the same be published in all the newspapers of Michigan.

ROBERT CLARK, *President*.

LAURENT DUROCHER, *Secretary*.